

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 37 is amended, and claims 72-74 have been added. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-61, 63-65 and 67-74 are pending, and claims 62 and 66 have been canceled.

Claims 37-60 and 69-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §251 as being improperly broadened by attempting to recapture previously surrendered subject matter. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action relies on the well-known Clements case to reject the claims for recapture. As noted previously, *Clement* is a typical recapture case wherein a limiting feature was added to an existing element, and then that limiting feature was deleted in the reissue proceeding. More specifically, original claim 1 in the Clement patent was directed to a method for treating waste paper that removes "stickies," such as glues and plastics, under a first set of environmental conditions, before removing inks under a second set of environmental conditions. The original claim recited, *inter alia*, (a) forming an aqueous pulp of said material at low temperature and low specific mechanical energy; (b) separating non-ink contaminants by mechanical separation; (c) softening ink particles by submitting the pulp to high temperature, high shear forces, and at least one de-inking agent under alkaline conditions; and (d) detaching the ink particles by submitting the pulp to high temperature, high shear forces, and at least one chemical dispersing agent under alkaline conditions. During prosecution, these steps were amended, *inter alia*, by limiting step (a) to room temperature and a mechanical energy of lower than 50 KW.H/Ton; by limiting step (b) to room temperature; and by limiting steps (c) and (d) to a temperature between 85° and 130° C, mechanical energy more than 50 KW.H/Ton, and strong alkaline conditions having a pH of at least 9. In the reissue application, the narrowing features were canceled while retaining the corresponding steps. The Court held that the deletion of the added features constituted an impermissible recapture of previously surrendered subject matter.

The applicant relies on the *Meyers* case to support the amendments. In *Meyers*, the claims were directed to features of a night vision system. Each original claim included a pulsing circuit for a light-emitting diode (LED). During prosecution, the patentee distinguished over the prior art by amended the pulsing circuit to add two limitations: (1) that the circuit would pulse on and off at intervals that resulted in the LED being off more often than on; and (2) that the pulsing circuit, when on, would pulse at a substantially higher level of power than it would be able to sustain if left on continuously. The pulsing circuit, including the two added features, was deleted from the claims. The Court held that deletion of the pulsing circuit, together with the two features added to the pulsing circuit to distinguish over the prior art, did not constitute impermissible recapture.

These two cases can be understood by the following analogy: If a claim recites A + B + C and is amended during prosecution to recite A + B + C + C', wherein C' is a feature of element C, then C' cannot be deleted in a reissue proceeding. That is the *Clement* case. However, if a claim recites A + B + C and is amended during prosecution to recite A + B + C + C', wherein C' is a feature of element C, then the claim may be amended in a reissue proceeding to delete C and C' and recite A + B + D, wherein feature D is a narrowing feature independent of element C. That is the *Meyers* case. The patentee in the *Meyers* case was not attempting to recapture protection of A + B + C, but was attempting to protect an independent invention A + B + D.

The present application is similar to *Meyers* in that the original claims recited "first and second cam members", i.e., element "C." During prosecution of the original patent, the first and second cam members were amended to include their respective input and output designations as well as the movement and camming surface features. The added features collectively can be called feature C'. If the preliminary amendment merely deleted the input and output designations as well as the movement and camming surface features and otherwise kept the two cam members, then the examiner would be correct that *Clement* prevents such an amendment.

However, there is a difference between deleting a limiting *feature* that was added to an element versus deleting the element itself. *Clement* applies to the former, whereas *Meyers* applies to

the latter. In other words, the preliminary amendment in this case canceled not just feature C', but element C (the two cams) as well. The actuating arm (equivalent to "element D") was added to protect an invention that is independent of an invention that involves the cams.

Claims 37-45, 47-53 and 69-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Deit, et al (US 5,647,475) in view of Carre, et al (US 4,582,177) and Huang (US 6,148,964). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 has been amended to clarify that the cable support extends from a surface of the caliper housing and is not adjustable *in any direction* relative to the surface of the caliper housing. Support for this feature may be found in the applicant's specification at column 7, lines 33-37 and Figs. 2, 4, 7 and 8, which describe and show how support member (44) extends outwardly from body portion (42). Since support member (44) and body portion (42) are one piece, support member (44) cannot be adjusted in any direction relative to body portion (42).

The very purpose of the Le Deit, et al caliper is to allow the bracing piece (44) to be adjusted relative to the housing (10) to compensate for manufacturing variations in the position of the actuating lever (32). Making bracing piece (44) nonadjustable would destroy the objective of Le Deit, et al. It is not obvious to modify a prior art device in a manner that destroys its intended operation. In re Gordon, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

In addition to the above, neither Le Deit, Carre, et al nor Huang disclose or suggest a circumferentially *elongated* protuberance that points in a rotational direction of the actuating arm towards the cable support where the cable passes through the cable support as recited in amended claim 38. A protuberance is defined for the purpose of the claims as a structure that bulges out beyond the surrounding surface, and such is not the case in the cited references.

As for claim 69, one piece means one piece. One piece does not mean two pieces bolted together, nor is such an interpretation reasonable.

New claim 72 is identical to claim 37 except for the fact that claim 72 recites the cable support extending from a surface of the caliper housing and is not adjustable *at any time* relative to

the surface of the caliper housing. Thus, support for the identical portions may be found in the same places previously set forth for claim 37. Support for the changed feature may be found in the applicant's specification at column 7, lines 33-37 and Figs. 2, 4, 7 and 8, which describe and show how support member (44) extends outwardly from body portion (42). Since support member (44) and body portion (42) are one piece, support member (44) cannot be adjusted at any time relative to body portion (42).

As noted above, the very purpose of the Le Deit, et al caliper is to allow the bracing piece (44) to be adjusted relative to the housing (10) to compensate for manufacturing variations in the position of the actuating lever (32). Making bracing piece (44) nonadjustable would destroy the objective of Le Deit, et al. It is not obvious to modify a prior art device in a manner that destroys its intended operation.

New claim 73 is identical to claim 37 except for the fact that claim 73 recites the cable support extending from a surface of the caliper housing and is not removable (defined as not designed to be capable of removal) relative to the surface of the caliper housing. Thus, support for the identical portions may be found in the same places previously set forth for claim 37. Support for the changed feature may be found in the applicant's specification at column 7, lines 33-37 and Figs. 2, 4, 7 and 8, which describe and show how support member (44) extends outwardly from body portion (42). Since support member (44) and body portion (42) are one piece, support member (44) cannot be removed relative to body portion (42).

As noted above, the very purpose of the Le Deit, et al caliper is to allow the bracing piece (44) to be removed and adjusted relative to the housing (10) to compensate for manufacturing variations in the position of the actuating lever (32). Making bracing piece (44) nonremovable would destroy the objective of Le Deit, et al. It is not obvious to modify a prior art device in a manner that destroys its intended operation.

New claim 74 is a combination of prior claims 37 and 69. Thus, support for claim 74 may be found in the same places previously set forth for claims 37 and 69. As noted above, one piece means

one piece. One piece does not mean two pieces bolted together, nor is such an interpretation reasonable.

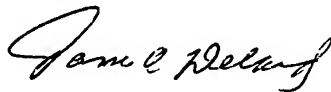
Claim 46 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Deit, et al in view of Carre, et al, Huang and Mott (US 5,201,402). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 55-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Deit, et al in view of Carre, et al, Huang and Isai (US 5,960,914). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claim 60 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Deit, et al in view of Carre, et al, Huang, Isai and Mott. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 and §251 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Deland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Deland" clearly distinguishable.

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